

14. REDVENTED BULBUL *Pycnonotus cafer* (LINNE) EATING PETALS OF *MAGNOLIA*

Redvented Bulbuls *Pycnonotus cafer* (3 pairs) live in and around our cottage, breed in low bushes and raise their young. We enjoy watching them. *Magnolia gradiflora* is an introduced tree in the gardens in Nilgiris. We have one medium-sized tree in the compound. The tree is in flower during November, December, February and March. The Redvented Bulbuls feast on the petals, regularly, all day. There are other birds, in and around our cottage, like

the spotted doves, sparrows, the Jungle Crows and Black Bulbuls. But only the Redvented eats the petals. At one sitting, one bird eats up the exposed half or more, of one petal. The petals of *Magnolia* are large: to give an idea of size, a - bulbul can be wrapped up in one petal. Petal feeding of an exotic is interesting adaptation.

December 10, 1986. J. MANGALRAJ JOHNSON

15. A NOTE ON ROSERINGED PARAKEET *PSITTACULA KRAMERI* FEEDING ON THE LEAVES OF *SALVADORA PERSICA* IN THE POINT CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.

On 29th November 1986 at 0610 hrs, while observing birds visiting a *Fluggea leucopyrus* shrub in fruit on the north side of Muniappan Eri, I saw five Roseringed Parakeets suddenly land on a nearby *Salvadora persica* tree with no flowers or fruits. Two of the parakeets perched on a branch facing me and the other three on another branch facing in a different direction. The two parakeets (both females) started eating the fresh leaves of the plant. At 0616 hrs when I stood up to watch the three para-

keets on the other branch, all the five birds flew away. Fruits, cereal, grain, seeds of all kinds, flower petals and nectar of *Salmalia malabarica*, *Erythrina indica*, *Butea monosperma*, *Bassia latifolia* have so far been recorded as food items of Roseringed parakeets (Ali & Ripley, HANDBOOK 1983). The leaves of *Salvadora persica* now form an additional food item of the Roseringed parakeet.

December 20, 1986. P. BALASUBRAMANIAN

REFERENCES

- ALI, SALIM & RIPLEY, S.D. (1983) : Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan. Compact Edition. p. 222. Oxford University Press, New Delhi.

16. SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING OF PARADISE FLYCATCHER, *TERPSIPHONE PARADISI* (LINNAEUS) (MONARCHINAE)

The Paradise flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) is very uncommon, though widely distributed, in Bangladesh. It generally inhabits the cool, damp areas shaded by bamboo groves, mango trees, tamarind trees, etc. So far, we have recorded the occurrence of this bird from Cox's Bazar forest, Modhupur forest, Sardah near Rajshahi, Rajshahi University campus and Dhasara, Manikganj near Dhaka.

On 5th May 1986, during one of our field trips, we found a breeding pair of Paradise flycatcher (brown phase) at Dhasara, Manikganj about 63 km west of the metropolitan capital, Dhaka. The nest was complete and empty. It was built in the extreme fork of a small branch of a mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) about 4 m in height. The area was shaded by bamboo

groves, lofty *Tamarind indica*, *Delonix regia*, *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Borassus flabellifer*, mandar (local name), guava, etc. The area also supported some climbers, creepers, bushes, herbs, shrubs and epiphytes. There was a nest of a Bronze-winged drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) with four hatchlings, about 3 m away and 1.5 m higher than the nest under observation. Also there was a nest of a Pied myna (*Sturnus contra*) about 5 m away. Moreover, there was a nest of Toddy Cat (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus bondar* Desmarest) with three young on top of a date-palm tree (*Phoenix sylvestris*) at the height of about 7 m from the ground and 5 m away from the Paradise flycatcher's nest. A busy village bridle-path went near the nest and all